

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

August 12, 2014

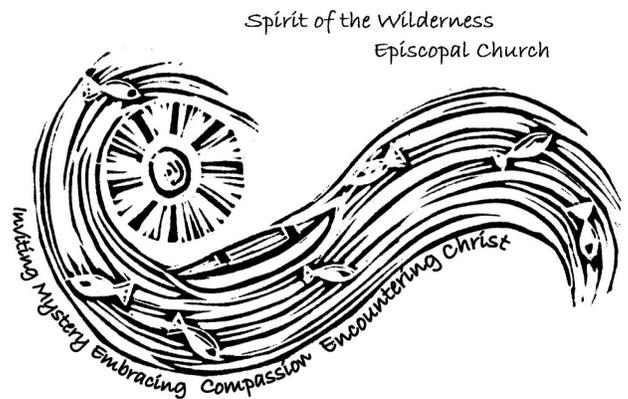
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Vicar's Report

It's seven years since Layne and Rolf put their ad in the newspaper—"Any other Episcopalians out there?"

At the meeting of the Northeast Region—churches from International Falls to Hinkley to Grand Marais—we shared some things that are going on in various churches. Each SOTW person, scattered around the circle shared something different that was going on—Dragonboat, historical service, lemonade stand, Michael Pipkin's visit, Good Samaritan Fund, Lilly Clergy Renewal Fund, etc., etc. And there were many we didn't mention—our toiletries ministry, Ruby's Pantry, art show, etc. Makes me realize we've got a lot going on!

Well, what did we expect!?!?

God always seems to want to multiply our meager designs. We bring our few loaves and fish and look what happens!! After the service on August 24th, we will have a brief meeting—11:45-12:15—to lay out "The State of the Mission." This will be an opportunity to lay out something about where we are at—in terms of program, finances, etc.—as we begin to turn a corner, expectant to see what God has put ahead of us.

These areas include:

- Rethinking our ministry as we grow—how do we continue to have strong lay involvement, with people functioning out of their gifts and passions? This will be part of preparation for my sabbatical.
- Training folks so that they can move into new ministry areas.
- A stewardship campaign for this next year.
- Our need to put SOTW on a more secure financial footing—we have some people who have offered to be part of this work—I'm calling them the Financial Wizards!
- Continued learning opportunities—forums, historical services, small groups, Deepening Roots—perhaps more movie/book groups?
- Outreach possibilities including Ruby's Pantry and mentoring at the Y.
- Ongoing balance of care for those within our walls and those outside—beginning to think toward our next Entry Points art exhibit, for example.

What am I missing? What are you feeling tugged about? Just as Mariano brought us the Cody's Closet idea, which has been blessed and multiplied—what would you want to bring?

My sense is that this meeting will provide an important place for us to stop and see where we're at, as we offer our loaves and fishes, and as we "step out of the boat"! One of the biggest challenge to any church is to hold onto what is good, but to be willing to keep moving and changing—expanding the vision. Because that's what God is like.

After our meeting on the 24th, we'll go out to Poplar Lake for a social at Ron and Sue's.

Blessings, Mary Ellen



Please let me know if you would like to be part of any of the following:

- This year's **stewardship** campaign.
- **Financial Wizard** group to work on SOTW's longterm financial footing.
- Group to work on **ministry visioning** and planning.
- Part of a steering committee for **Ruby's Pantry** .
- A member of the **Bishop's Committee**.

What team work!

Coming Up!

Sunday, August 17—SOTW at the Care Center.

Sunday, August 24—11:45-12:15 "State of the Mission" meeting. Following, a potluck social at Ron and Sue's place on Poplar Lake.

August 26-28—women's canoe trip into the BWCAW.

September 3rd, 2:15-5:00—Tea and presentation by Karen Halberleben on some of England's queens at Naniboujou Lodge. Sign up with CCHE for this fund raising treat.

Sept. 10th, 6:30—Bishop's Committee

October 5th—Rescheduled forum—How were the books of the Bible chosen?

July 20 Readings:

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm 133

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: 10-18

Look at the decisions in Genesis and Matthew. How are they made? How do we as a church make decisions?

Please pray:

For Peter and Joyce Fergus-Moore in the loss of Peter's daughter, Charity.

For Jean Probst as she has hip replacement surgery August 12.

For Carol Knox as she continues to recover from a concussion.

Continue to bring **toiletry items** for the closet at the High School, to put in the box in the back of the church. (And if you have a suggested name for the program, let someone know.)

Interested in?????

- A new Deepening Roots class is starting this fall.
- The Movie Group that met once and has been on summer vacation?

This Sunday:

Leading—Lee

Preaching—Mary Ellen

Presiding—Carolyn

Music—Karl

Treats??????